

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
NSC-05 EURE-00 /064 W
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P R 071826Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2056
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO HQS DA WASHDC PRIORITY
CDR DARCOM ALEXANDRIA VA PRIORITY
CDR PICATINNY ARSENAL DOVER NJ
USAMSAA ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND MD PRIORITY
SRUSASGUK LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1239

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E, OASD(I&L) AND OASD (ISA). DARCOM FOR DRCIRD.
PICATINNY FOR ASST PROJ MGR FOR XM-1 TANK. USAMSAA FOR DRXSY-DS.

EO11652 GDS
TAGS OCON NATO MILI
SUBJECT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY WORKING
GROUP 3 ON TAK GUN AMMUNITION (AC/297-WG/3)

REF A. USNATO 0770 DTG 111601Z FEB 77 B. USNATO 0824 DTG
141925Z FEB 77; C. STATE 041168 DTG 240110Z FEB 77.

SUMMARY: INTERNATIONAL STAFF ISSUED AC/297-D/26, "PROGRESS
REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF WG/3", WHICH IS AN AGENDA ITEM FOR
THE MARCH 16 MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE (AHC) ON EQUIP-
MENT INTEROPERABILITY. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE US-PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS WERE INCLUDED, SOME WERE OMITTED BY THE CHAIRMAN
WHO, IN HIS COVER MEMORANDUM NOTES THAT AGREEMENT BY
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THE GROUP AS A WHOLE WAS NOT POSSIBLE; THUS, THE REPORT
MAY NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE FULL APPROVAL OF ALL MEMBERS
OF WG/3. MESSAGE CITES THOSE PORTIONS OF THE TEXT
WHICH ARE CHANGED FROM THE EARLIER VERSION, AND PROVIDES
COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 4
END SUMMARY.

1. REFS A AND B TRANSMITTED THE TEXT OF PROPOSED WG/3
PROGRESS REPORT TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE (AHC), AND THE
WUBSEQUENT CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY THE WG/3 SECRETARY

AS A RESULT OF COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE FRG. REF C PROVIDED WASHINGTON AMENDMENTS AND COMMENTS ON THE PROGRESS REPORT AND ITS MODIFICATIONS, WHICH WE TRANSMITTED TO THE WG/3 SECRETARY ON FEBRUARY 24.

2. ON MARCH 4, 1977 THE IS ISSUED AC/297-D/26, "PROGRESS REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF WG/3," WHICH IS AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE MARCH 16 MEETING OF THE AHC. BECAUSE IT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO ISSUE A REPORT AGREED AND APPROVED BY WG/3 AS A WHOLE, THE CHAIRMAN IS REPORTING TO THE AHC WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS REPORT MAY NOT HAVE THE FULL AND UNRESERVED APPROVAL OF ALL MEMBERS OF WG/3. ACCORDINGLY, HE IS NOT PROVIDING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THOSE PORTIONS OF AC/297-D/26 THAT ARE CHANGED FROM REF A AS MODIFIED BY REF B.

BEGIN TEXT OF CHANGES:

- PARA 1: " AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL" HAS BEEN DELETED.
 - PARA 3: NEW SENTENCE ADDED AT END OF PARAGRAPH: " A REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE ALSO ATTENDED PART OF THE MEETING."
 - PARA 5: NEW SENTENCE ADDED AT END OF PARA: "HOWEVER, THE ANGLE OF IMPACT AND THE PART OF THE TANK THAT HAD BEEN HIT WERE NOT GIVEN."
 - PARA 6: LAST SENTENCE DELETED PURSUANT TO US REQUEST (REF C).
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- PARA 8: "1978" CHANGED TO "1977" PURSUANT TO US REQUEST (REF C).
- PARA 9: FIRST SENTENCE CHANGED TO READ: "IN A MUCH LESS ADVANCED STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IS THE XM-774, OF WHICH TWO VERSIONS.."

NOTE: THE US PROPOSAL TO RETAIN THE WORDING: "A SIMPLER DESIGN THAN THE M-735" WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

- PARA 12: IS RETAINED THE MODIFIED VERSION (REF B) WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON. WE WILL FOLLOW UP TO ASSURE THAT A STATUS REPORT ON THE XM-774 IS INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF WG/3.
- PARA 15: WORD "ONLY" IN NEXT TO LAST LINE HAS BEEN DELETED PURSUANT TO US REQUEST (REF C).
- PARA 16: CHANGED TO READ AS PER USPROPOSAL (REF C).
- PARA 17: (AS MODIFIED BY REF B): THE US PROPOSAL (REF C) WAS NOT ACCEPTED. THE PARA HAS BEEN MODIFIED, HOWEVER, AND NOW READS: "MOST COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE WORKING GROUP CONSIDER THAT THE M-735 SHOULD BE REGARDED AS AN INTERIM DESIGN TO BE REPLACED IN DUE COURSE BY THE XM-774 DESIGN OR A SIMILAR ROUND WHICH WOULD BALLISTICALLY MATCH THE M-735. THE FRG, HOWEVER, INSISTS THAT THE M-735 SHOULD BE STANDARDIZED IN NATO."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 1239

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COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD POINT OUT TO THE
AHC US INTENTIONS CONCERNING PHASE-OUT OF M-735 AND
PHASE-IN OF XM-774 -- THE FRG VIEW NOTWITHSTANDING.
AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD NOTE THE BALLISTIC MATCHING
OF THESE ROUNDS AND THEIR COMPLETE INTEROPERABILITY.

END COMMENT:

- PARA 19: REVISED TO READ: "THE GROUP INTENDS THAT,
WHEN COMPLETED, THE RESULTS OF THE ABOVE EXERCISE, BEING
COMPLEMENTARY TO THE CATALOGUE OF 105MM TANK GUN AMMUNI-
TION INTERCHANGEABILITY, STANAG 2840, NOW BEING REVISED
BY MAS TO INCLUDE THE FRENCH F.1 GUN AND ASSOCIATED
AMMUNITION, SHALL BE PASSED TO THE MAS FOR PROMULGATION.
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THE GROUP ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING AS
RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, THE REVISION OF STANAG 2840."

COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS REVISION FULLY MEETS WASHINGTON'S
DESIRE TO NOTE THAT THE FRENCH F.1 GUN IS ALSO
INCLUDED IN THE MAS REVISION OF THE STANAG. END COMMENT.

- PARA 20: REVISED TO READ: "ALTHOUGH THE THIRD
MEETING OF THE WG WAS CONFINED EXCLUSIVELY TO 105MM
AMMUNITION, THE WG DID CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING
ABLE TO ADDRESS ONCE AGAIN THE 120MM SITUATION AT FUTURE
MEETINGS. THE FRG OPPOSED ANY DISCUSSION OF 120MM WEAPON/

AMMUNITION SYSTEMS ON THE GROUNDS THAT NO PROVISION FOR SUCH DISCUSSION WAS MADE IN THE AGENDA, AND THEREFORE DECLINES TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REMAINDER OF THIS PARAGRAPH; THE MAJORITY VIEW, HOWEVER, CONSIDERED THAT A SURVEY OF THE SITUATION, AS REVEALED BY PRESS RELEASES AND OTHER SOURCES, WOULD BE HELPFUL. SUCH AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATED THAT THE SITUATION HAS NOW BEEN CLARIFIED TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE IN THAT THE FRG INTENDS TO REQUEST PERMISSION FROM ITS PARLIAMENT IN MARCH 1977 TO EQUIP LEOPARD 2 TANKS WITH ITS 120MM SMOOTH BORE GUN, WHILE THE US HAS HELD UP ITS DECISION ON WHICH 120MM GUN TO SELECT FOR EVENTUAL FITTING TO THE XM-1 TANK UNTIL DECEMBER 1977. THE CHOICE BY THE US WILL LIE BETWEEN THE GERMAN SMOOTH BORE AND THE IMPROVED BRITISH RIFLED GUN (FOOTNOTE) BOTH FIRING FS ADPS TYPE KINETIC ENERGY ROUNDS. IT IS FURTHER KNOWN THAT THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY OF INTEROPERABILITY BEING ACHIEVED BETWEEN AMMUNITION FOR THE SMOOTH BORE AND RIFLED 120MM GUNS INVOLVED. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE UK IS ALREADY COMMITTED TO THE RIFLED 120MM CHIEFTAIN GUN OF WHICH 900 HAVE BEEN IN NATO SERVICE FOR SOME TEN YEARS, AND CONSEQUENTLY WHATEVER CHOICE IS MADE BY THE US, IF THE 120MM SMOOTH BORE GUN IS FITTED TO LEOPARD 2 TANKS, TWO DIFFERENT AND NON-INTERCHANGEABLE FAMILIES OF 120MM GUNS AND
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AMMUNITION WILL EXIST WITHIN NATO FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME TO COME." FOOTNOTE: "THE IMPROVED BRITISH 120MM RIFLED GUN WILL HAVE SOME, BUT NOT COMPLETE, INTEROPERABILITY WITH THE PRESENT CHIEFTAIN GUN." COMMENT: THE IS REJECTED THE US-PROPOSED ADDITION OF A LAST SENTENCE POINTING UP THE POSSIBILITY OF FOUR DIFFERENT 120MM TANK GUNS IN THE 1990'S (REF C). END COMMENT.
- PARA 23: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN DELETED.

4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE PAPER, AND THE SPECIFIC STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN THAT IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE FULL
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BELIEVE THE TEXT TO BE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE. THE PAPER, HOWEVER, GLOSSES OVER THE BASIC PROBLEM OF A GENERAL FRG UNWILLINGNESS TO ADDRESS THE 120MM GUN ISSUE (REF A). ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY COB MARCH 11, 1977 ON (A) THE ACCEPTABILITY OF AC/297-D/26, PARTICULARLY PARA 9, 17 AND 20, AND (B) THE APPROACH TO BE TAKEN CONCERNING FRG UNWILLINGNESS FOR WG/3 TO ADDRESS 120MM MATTERS. END COMMENT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

NOTE: # AS RECEIVED.

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